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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPAN: PLEASE DON'T ROCK THE BOAT

SENATOR PERCY, REPORTING FROM TOKYO, FOUND JAPANESE LEADERS ANXIOUS ABOUT THEIR ECONOMY, UNCERTAIN OF NATIONAL OBJECTIVES, BUT TRYING TO MAINTAIN A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATTITUDE. PRIME MINISTER MIKI TOLD PERCY THE "LOCKHEED ELECTION" HAD HURT HIS PARTY, BUT HAD STRENGTHENED JAPANESE DEMOCRACY. MIKI URGED THAT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN KOREA NOT BE UPSET BY A PRECIPITOUS WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. ACCORDING TO SENATOR PERCY, THE JAPANESE ARE:

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--FEARFUL OF PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS BY THE US AND THE EC;

--RESIGNED TO SLOWER GROWTH RATES, BUT UNWILLING TO RELINQUISH THEIR LARGE TRADE SURPLUS;

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--UNPREPARED TO COPE WITH THEIR GROWING ENERGY
DEFICIT; AND

--UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ISSUES CONCERNING LDC
DEVELOPMENT. (UNCLASSIFIED) TOKYO 18551, 12/18.
-
2. THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AS AN AGENT FOR CHANGE

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE RECENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION (CPSU) AND THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA MAY REPRESENT A TURNING POINT IN THE USE OF PARTY-TO-PARTY TIES TO ADVANCE SOVIET POLICY IN AFRICA. SUCH AGREEMENTS COULD BENEFIT MOSCOW BY:

--PROVIDING IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE OPPORTUNITIES;

--ENHANCING THE STABILITY OF FRIENDLY REGIMES;

--POLITICIZING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID;

--REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUDDEN SHIFTS IN
POLICY, SUCH AS THE EGYPTIAN REVERSAL IN 1972; AND

--ENCOURAGING "PROGRESSIVE" SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANS-
FORMATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: COMPETITION IS NEVER FAR FROM SOVIET THOUGHTS AND THE EFFORT TO INTENSIFY PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY COUNTRIES IS NECESSARILY A
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"STRUGGLE INSTRUMENT" FOR THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 19726, 12/17.

3. SOMALIA: CRACKS IN THE HOSTILITY?

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD, UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE EXTENT OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF HIS COUNTRY, MAYBE INTERESTED IN MOVING US-SOMALI RELATIONS OUT OF THE DEEP FREEZE. EMBASSY MOGADISCIO CAUTIONS AGAINST INFLATED EXPECT-ATIONS, BUT RECOMMENDS THAT WE EXPLORE SOMALI INTENTIONS AND SIGNAL OUR WILLINGNESS TO AMELIORATE RELATIONS BY OFFERING US DIPLOMATIC HELP TO IMPROVE SOMALIA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND INCREASE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SIAD ADMINISTRATION AND THE USG. THE EMBASSY ALSO SUGGESTS THAT DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT MIGHT BE SOUGHT FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER MODERATE ARAB STATES WHO SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN MOVING THE SOMALIS AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS AND IN RESTRAINING THEM FROM IRREDENTIST AD-

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VENTURES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOGADISCIO 2065, 12/19.

4. SOCIALIST SUPPORTS NATO MISSION FOR PORTUGAL

LEFTWING SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER ANTONIO REIS TOLD EMBASSY LISBON THAT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY MUST HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE PROFESSIONAL OUTLET IF IT IS TO SUCCESS-FULLY COMPLETE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICS. REIS SAID A CREDIBLE NATO MISSION WAS THE ANSWER SINCE IT WOULD:

--PROVIDE A SATISFYING PROFESSIONAL FOCUS;

--REINFORCE PORTUGAL'S EUROPEAN OPTION; AND

--PERMIT THE TASK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION TO PROCEED APACE.
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EMBASSY COMMENT: REIS IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY ESTABLISHMENT. SINCE HE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF NATO IN THE PAST, HIS COMMENTS REPRESENT AN ENCOURAGING SHIFT IN POSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 8702, 12/17.

5. SYRIA: WHY NOT MONEY FOR US TOO?

SYRIAN ECONOMIC MINISTER IMADI TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT SYRIA URGENTLY NEEDS $500 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE IN RAISING THAT AMOUNT IN WESTERN CAPITAL MARKETS OR FROM GOVERNMENT AID. IMADI SAID THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM THE NON-RECEIPT OF FUNDS PROMISED UNDER THE RABAT AND CAIRO ACCORDS. IMADI ALSO NOTED THAT EGYPT IS RECEIVING SUBSTANTIALLY MORE ASSISTANCE THAN SYRIA FROM BOTH US AND ARAB SOURCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 8637, 12/18.
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